

110 EAST MAIN STREET, LOS GATOS, CA 95030

President's Message

Maureen O'Connell



I look forward to serving as president of the Friends of the Library this year. My love affair with libraries started in my hometown of Stratford, Conneticut before I went to school.

During grammar school and high school, I looked forward to weekly, after-school trips to my town's library. I spent many summer days beneath the gothic towers of that library. I especially enjoyed the

New treasurer: Ray Clark

—by Carol Hamilton

Ray Clark is our new treasurer and newest member on the board of Los Gatos Friends. When asked how to describe himself, he quickly responded, “handsome and dashing,” and I immediately knew we had a winner. Having a sense of humor will go a long way on a board with all women.

Ray was born in England and came to the U.S. in ‘87. He settled in Los Gatos in ‘89 with his wife and two children, just in time for the earthquake.

He worked for Hitachi Data

president

summer reading programs. Now, I foster my passion for reading as a member of the Friends’ Board.

At times, the local library seems like an endangered species. Neighboring community libraries have resorted to closing one day a week to deal with budget short-falls. In Salinas, a mere 50 miles away, the three branch libraries were set to close indefinitely. But because of fundraising efforts there, the branches are now open on a reduced schedule.

Here in Los Gatos, our dedicated and hardworking library staff continues to provide full services seven days a week, despite decreasing town revenue and resulting budget cuts.

The library has launched an innovative program to preserve the unique history of Los Gatos. On

September 29, a premier of a movie chronicling the history of this program will be held at the Opera House.

Our town is fortunate to have a Friends’ board composed of loyal and dedicated volunteers. Our primary fundraising activity is selling used books donated to us.

The books are sold in the library and at special sales held in the foyer of the town council chambers four times each year. In September we will undertake a town-wide appeal for membership and donations to the Friends.

Your membership dollars support the children and teen summer programs and our Friday Forums. Additionally, they help support Fund for the Future and funding for high demand books, such as popular mysteries and best sellers.

Thank you for all your generous support. Please contact me if you have any questions and/or suggestions for future Friends’ activities.



Systems as V.P. of Sales Support, and then joined a start-up company as the CFO.

Ray is now retired, his children grown; and he lives with his wife Dianne and their two cocker spaniels. He enjoys classical music, reading, and hopes to start playing golf again soon.



LOS GATOS: NOW AND THEN
WILL PREMIERE AT A GALA AT THE
OPERA HOUSE ON
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
AT 6:30 P.M.
TICKETS ARE \$20
CALL 354-1547 TO ORDER
OR PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE LIBRARY.

Young Writers' Workshops

Friends’ board member and author, **Martha Alderson** will again teach:

Young Writers Workshops
Saturdays in February
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Neighborhood Center
208 E. Main Street, Los Gatos

Youngsters will learn how to develop plot and characters to build a story. Alderson teaches writing at U.C. Santa Cruz and leads workshops for children and adults. “It’s exciting to watch the magic happen with the discovery of their gifts,” she says. “Many come to the workshop because they have creative imaginations or they love books and stories, but even those who are reluctant par-

children

ticipants complain the workshop is too short when it’s time to quit.”

Alderson is the author of **Blockbuster Plots**, and her email is: **Martha@blockbusterplots.com**

To register, complete the form below, and enclose a check, payable to Friends of Los Gatos Library or FLGPL, 110 E. Main St., Los Gatos 95030 or drop off registration and check at the library. Cost for Friends’ members is \$10; others, \$15.

February 4, Ages 8-12
February 11, Ages 13-16
February 18, Ages 8-12; for all ability levels. Writing materials, drinks and cookies will be provided. Bring a lunch.

Young Writers Workshop Registration

Student's Name	Age	
Workshop Date	New <input type="checkbox"/>	Continuing <input type="checkbox"/>
Street/City/Zip	Phone	
Email		
Parent's Name		

We'll phone, email or send a post card to confirm your registration. For more information call the Friends message line at 399-5700.

VOLUNTEERS AND BOOKS NEEDED AT SHELTER
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO READ STORIES TO CHILDREN LIVING AT THE COUNTY CHILDREN'S SHELTER, EITHER ONE-ON-ONE OR GROUPS, ONE YEAR OLD AND OLDER. YOUNGSTERS IN THE YOUNG WRITERS WORKSHOP AT THE SHELTER LAST SPRING SAID THEY COULDN'T RELATE TO EXAMPLES OF HEROES AND OTHER CHARACTERS BECAUSE NONE OF THEM HAD READ A STORY, OR HAD ONE READ TO THEM. MARK FORREST, RECREATION DIRECTOR, SAID HE WOULD WELCOME FRIENDS' VOLUNTEERS WHO WANTED TO READ STORIES TO THE CHILDREN OR DONATE BOOKS.
VOLUNTEERS NEED TO PROVIDE I.D., BE FINGER PRINTED AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION, WHICH TAKES ONLY A FEW MINUTES. IF YOU CAN HELP FOR AN OCCASIONAL HOUR OR MORE, PLEASE CALL THE FRIENDS LINE AT 399-5700. YOU COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A YOUNG PERSON'S LIFE.

Children's Fall programs

October 6, 3:30 p.m.
Holly Cleeland of Glue and Go will show kids and parents how to build costumes out of household items.
Ages 5 and up

October 20, 3:30 p.m.
Jeremy Shafer's one-man show of unicycling, magic, origami, juggling.
Ages 12 and up only

November 17, 3:30 p.m.
Magician Norman Ng.
Ages 4 and up

December 15, 3:30 p.m.
P & T Puppet Theatre presents The Elves and the Shoemaker.
Ages 4 and up

Teens read to kids
Every Thursday, 3:30- 4:30 p.m. except on program days when times are 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

4th-7th grade book clubs
Meet the last Thursday of every month: 4th graders 3:30-4:10 p.m. 5th graders 4:15-4:55 p.m. 6th and 7th graders 5-5:40 p.m.

Storytime Schedule
Mondays, 10:30 a.m. ages 2-3
Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. ages 3-5
Fridays, 10:30 a.m. ages 0-2

Books Together reading
All ages welcome 3:00-5:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.



New books in the Library

—Compiled by Sue Anderson, Reference Librarian

Fiction

Birds Without Wings
by Louis de Bernieres

A sweeping novel of Turkey before and during World War I, set in a small town and alternating episodic local events with the biography of the man who will become Ataturk.

One Sunday Morning
by Amy Ephron

Set in the 1920s, four women at a bridge party in an elegant New York hotel notice a woman they know leave a nearby hotel with a man not her husband. The conflict between

books

polite rules of conduct and an emerging spirit of liberation ensues.

The Portrait by Iain Pears

The psychological balance of power keeps switching between an influential London art critic and the talented painter doing his portrait for a friend in self-imposed exile in Brittany.

Non-Fiction

Flag: an American Biography
by Marc Leipson

How the Stars and Stripes developed: its history in peace and war,

now displayed on everything from head scarves to auto decals.

The Genius Factory by David Plotz

In 1980 the so-called Nobel Prize sperm bank opened to great public interest. But in 1999 the doors quietly closed, records sealed and the fate of its nearly 200 children unknown. This book sheds light on the bank and what effect it may have on the future.

One Nation Under Therapy
by Christina Hoff Sommers

Americans, who have traditionally and strongly valued self-reliance, have suffered a barrage of therapeutic interference in recent years which insists a book, TV show, or health professional will solve problems we may not even have.



Young Writers at Children's Shelter

Last spring, 15 residents of the Children's Shelter, ages 7-17 filed slowly, some reluctantly, into the

creative expression. The results were often a very poignant story. "Because of their grim life experi-

ences all of them functioned at a much older level. Wisdom and pain came out in each of their stories," Alderson said. "The act of creation helped them purge and share and heal, albeit only a fraction of the betrayal and abandonment and sadness they carry with them. The very

act of creation connects us to the mystery of life.

"The physical act of writing is not the emphasis here; it's starting with nothing and ending up with a story. For kids who have fine motor problems or have already built up an aversion to paper and pencil, we volunteers act as their personal secretaries. "All leave

with something they themselves have created through their own imaginations and life experiences.

All of us who volunteered at the workshop were changed by this experience. Each of us who were there believes that even that little bit helped."

Mark Forrest, shelter recreation director, agreed and encouraged Friends to provide the workshop annually.

Martha, with a masters in speech pathology, founded and directed a speech, language and learning disability clinic for children.



Library Director's Corner

Peggy Conaway



Two new programs for youth were established at the library this past summer, and have proved so successful that

they have been added to our regular program schedule during the school year.

Reading Clubs for Kids were well attended and generated lots of positive comments from both the kids and their parents. The groups were run by kids, for kids, and our young patrons really seemed to enjoy that responsibility. The 4th grade club (Read O Rama), the 5th grade club (Cheese Muffins), and the combined 6th/7th grade club (Pizza Delivers), each meet once a month.

The second new youth program is **Teens Read to Kids**. During the summer, 13 local teens came into the library on a regular schedule to read to younger children.

Barbara Kreider, youth librarian, gave the teen readers two hours of training preparatory to the activity. New members are welcome at any time to join the programs.

The library is now able to give cardholders unprecedented access, directly from their homes and offices, to free downloadable audio books. Patrons can choose from romance, mysteries, bestsellers, study guides, biographies, children's books. They will be able to listen to their selections on a range of devices including PCs, PDAs and

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portable audio players. They can even burn titles directly to CDs and listen to them in their cars. Users do not need to return the digital files to the library. When the three-week loan period is over, the file expires and the materials are automatically checked back in. To browse this new collection, as well as a selection of free, text based eBooks, go to <http://library.logatosca.gov> and click on Digital Books. Library staff is always available during open hours to assist. Call 408-354-6896, or send us an e-mail at:

askalibrarian@logatosca.gov

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I traveled to **Listowel, Ireland**, in June, a **Los Gatos Sister City**. I enjoyed attending their 35th Writers' Week, and took in readings, workshops and art exhibits. This prominent Irish literary festival attracts hundreds of Irish authors, as well as some international names in the book world. **Jimmy Deenihan**, a member of the Irish Parliament from County Kerry, organized a reception in my honor, attended by about 50 people, including **Mayoress Maria O'Gorman** and **Town Clerk John Doody**, both of whom visited Los Gatos in March. The group seemed

to enjoy watching the 15-minute version of our new historic film documentary, **Los Gatos: Now and Then**.

Recent sales figures for *Images of America: Los Gatos*, the photo history I wrote in 2004, have been gratifying. Hannah Clayborne, my editor at Arcadia Publishing, says that of the 74 books that Arcadia published in their Western Region in 2004, Los Gatos came in second, with sales of about 5,000 copies. The Arcadia book on the town of Redlands had the most sales. I am most appreciative of the support of so many in the community in this effort to make our local history approachable and easily accessible. The book will remain in print as long as it is in demand, and all royalties from book sales go toward the support of the history project.

A new documentary film on the history of Los Gatos from 1860-1960 has been produced by Lyric Media of Los Gatos, working in partnership with the library and the museum joint history project. The film project has been proceeding for nearly a year, and both library and museum staff and volunteers have helped to make it happen.

Los Gatos: Now and Then will premiere at a gala at the Opera House on Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20, available at the library, at both museums, and the Chamber of Commerce. Or you may call 354-1547 to place your order.

I would suggest you buy your tickets early, as we think this will be a popular event and seating is limited.



Friend Indeed: Barbara and Bob Karski

by Mary Ann Cook

Barbara and Bob Karski are avid readers, avid devotees of libraries everywhere and avid workers at the Friends’ special book sales.

They’ve been living in the West about six years now, and are formerly from Massachusetts, where Barbara directed the choir in a Unitarian Church. In fact, that’s how the couple met.

Bob has an impressive plethora of academic achievements: he has advanced degrees in computer science from the University of Pennsylvania and in biomedicine from Brown University and an undergrad degree from Cal Tech. Today he works for Cisco in software improvements. Barbara is a landscape designer with a degree in that field from Radcliffe. Her undergraduate degree is in music from Wesleyan College in Georgia.



Besides her landscaping and music interests, Barbara is a confirmed book collector. And now that the couple will become flatlanders, she hopes to spend more time helping out at the library.

The two Santa Cruz mountain dwellers will be moving into a so-called mystery house, an Eichler, in Monte Sereno soon.

Book Sales

Monthly book totals at the library produced \$1,130 in August; \$1,215 in July; \$984 in June; \$1,027 in May; and \$973 in April. The special sale in July netted \$2,331; the special sale in April totaled \$1,758.

Sales to the Santa Cruz bookstore brought in \$820 over the summer months, \$300 in April and May.

A few titles that sold well over eBay were *The Circus of Dr. Lao*, \$45; *The USS Lexington*, \$31; back issues of *Mother Earth News*, 1970-1981, \$93; *McSweeney’s*, issues #1-3, \$92; *McSweeney’s*, #4, \$36; and *Kinney’s Law Dictionary* (1891), \$52.



Friday forums

A lively medley from olive oil to film noire

Friends of the Library will present a fascinating pot-pourri of Friday Forums in the coming year. First off November 11, 2005 will be **four short plays** by playwrights **Dennis Carter, Mary Ann Cook, Rebecca Royce and Roxy Sax**. All are veterans of the Foothill College Conservatory and have had plays produced at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and at Foothill College, as well as regional theaters.

Plays will have minimal sets and costumes, but will be performed by experienced actors in a staged reading format. The fact that the actors are reading from scripts will soon be forgotten, as the audience gets caught up in the stories being told.

Dennis Carter is a retired marketer who still does consulting. His play is *Diving for Abalone*, a drama about dealing with loss and the inevitable difficulty of moving on with life. As a playwright, Dennis has had plays performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Foothill College, the Eureka Theatre in San Francisco, City Lights in San Jose, and long ago by his second grade class.

Mary Ann Cook’s play is *She Was Trouble*, a film noir spoof. Think Bogart and Bacall gone absurdly awry with a stolen Mona Lisa caper. Cook writes a people column called *Main Street* for the *Los Gatos Weekly Times and Saratoga News* and has sold short humor articles.

Rebecca Royce’s offering is *The Socks: A Mystery*. Just who was at Bernie’s Bar last night? It’s all a bit fuzzy for Jim, until Bonnie fills him in on what really happened to – The Socks. **Rebecca Royce** lives in Santa Clara, and works as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Community Hospital of Los Gatos. She and her husband have two school-aged daughters.

Roxy Sax’s play, *The Dance of Life*, is an interchange between a woman and her dead mother. A play of passion and understanding, it reveals how the daughter comes to grips with long-held resentments,

and starts to heal old wounds as she celebrates a surprising 40th birthday. Sax works at Willow Glen Books when not pursuing her passion for theater. *The Dance of Life* was part of the New Plays Festival at Foothill College this year.

Winter/Spring offerings

The winter forum will be based on the book choice of the *Santa Clara County Reads* program, *When the Emperor was Divine* by **Julie Otsuka**. The author will present a program at a date to be announced later.

With spring will come thoughts of growing things and a forum evening will be devoted to Los Gatan **Carol Firenze** talking about her book, *The Passionate Olive*. Firenze is a life-long devotee of the olive and its products and of the joy of cooking Italian. A tasting is promised and the date will be April 7, 2006.

Muralist **John Pugh** will wrap up the Friends’ year with panache on May 19, 2006. His slide show will show some of his award-winning murals, and the process he uses in his Los Gatos studio to produce his trompe l’oeil works. So lifelike are they that people have been known to strike up conversations with those depicted in his handiwork. You can see examples of Pugh’s sleight-of-hand-and-brush at the Los Gatos Honda agency, on the wall outside Pastia Restaurant and at the Great Bear Coffee Shop, where the painting of the woman behind the bar calls to mind a famed Manet painting. Pugh is here to trick us and it’s a trick we’re sure to enjoy.

**Friday Forums start at 7 p.m.
in town council chambers
with schmoozing and refreshments.
The programs begin at 7:30 p.m.
Friday Forums are free to the public.**



Meet the Staff: Sally Witters

by Mary Ann Cook

Here’s a woman who LOVES libraries in all configurations. She’s **Sally Witters**, and she’s worked in school libraries, in tech libraries, in theological libraries and now, since ‘93, in a public library—in Los Gatos.

Witters title is Library Clerk, and she works at the circulation desk, helps educate patrons about the self check, and repairs and mends books, particularly reference maps and children’s books. The enthusiastic librarian helped Los Gatans bridge the gap between the manual system of library usage and the automated system now in place.

She grew up in New Mexico, took library classes and certification at New Mexico State. Then worked at the college and at junior high schools.

After the family relocated to Ohio, Witters worked at Wright Patterson Technology Library in Dayton and at Theological Library in Beaver Creek, this time as a volunteer church librarian. Today, since she works half time at the Los Gatos Public Library, she holds down a second job as sales clerk at the Indian Store in Old Town. A woman of wide-ranging hobbies, she enjoys horseback riding, gardening, watercolors, quilting, and, of course, reading.

Her husband Bob is financial administrator at Los Gatos Calvary Church and they have a grown son, Gerald, who manages a residence facility. Wittters calls Los Gatos a “sweet, sweet place” with a clientele willing to learn, to accustom themselves to new ways of operating in an automated library.

She calls her work “exciting, so much fun,” takes delight in colleagues and patrons-and especially appreciates the work done by the Friends.

